Renewal and Issuance of Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements

Public Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting

April 5, 2007

Presented by
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Water Resource Control Engineer
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/misc/waivers.html

California Home Thursday, March 29, 2007



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San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

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California Environmental Protection Agency

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board



OUR MISSION To preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.







Water News

Notice of Public Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting for Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Region (9) regarding the Renewal and Issuance of the Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements - April 5, 2007 (3-8-07)

get the facts

Notice of Availability - Copy of the Flow Entrainment and Impingement Minimization Plan submitted by Poseidon Resources for the Carlsbad Desalination Project (3-5-07)

read entire document

Supplemental Notice of Public Workshop - March 12, 2007 Orange County Municipal Storm Water Permit (Tentative Order







Reference Links

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Waivers Link



Outline

- Regulation of Waste Discharges
- Background of Existing Waivers
- Requirements to Renew Waivers
- CEQA Scoping Project Alternatives
- Recommended Alternative
- Project Development
- Proposed Waivers
- Schedule

All discharges of waste that can adversely affect the quality of waters of the state are subject to regulation [Water Code sections 13260 and 13264]

Definition of "Waste" [Water Code section 13050(d)] "Waste" includes sewage and any and all other waste substances, liquid, solid, gaseous, or radioactive, associated with human habitation, or of human or animal origin, or from any producing, manufacturing, or processing operation, including waste placed within containers, of whatever nature, prior to, and for purposes of, disposal.

- Basin Plan Prohibitions [Water Code section 13243]
 - Specify certain conditions or areas where the discharge of waste, or certain types of waste, is not permitted
- Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) [Water Code section 13263]
 - Point source that discharge waste directly to surface waters of the United States (NPDES)
 - All other discharges of waste
- Waivers [Water Code section 13269]
 - Specific discharges, or specific types of discharges, can be waived of waste discharge requirements if discharges comply with specific conditions

- Report of waste discharge (RoWD) [Water Code section 13260]
- Prescribe waste discharge requirements [Water Code section 13263]
- Report of waste discharge and waste discharge requirements may be waived for a specific discharge or type of discharge where such a waiver is consistent with the Basin Plan and in the public interest [Water Code section 13269]

Waivers...

...cannot be issued for discharges subject to federal NPDES regulations. The Water Code cannot authorize waivers for discharges subject to federal regulations.

Waivers...

...must be consistent with the Basin Plan and in the public interest. [Water Code section 13269(a)(1)]

Waivers...

...are conditional. [Water Code section 13269(a)(2)] Compliance with waiver conditions is required to be regulated by a waiver. [Water Code section 13269(e)] Discharges that comply with waiver conditions may be waived of WDRs, or RoWDs, or both. [Water Code section 13269(a)(1)]



Waivers...

...may not exceed five years in duration, but may be renewed.
[Water Code section 13269(a)(2)]

Waivers...

...shall have conditions that include the performance of individual, group, or watershed-based monitoring.

[Water Code section 13269(a)(2)]

Monitoring requirements may be waived if a discharge regulated by a waiver does not pose a significant threat to water quality. [Water Code section 13269(a)(3)]

Waivers...

...may include, as a waiver condition, the payment of an annual fee.
[Water Code section 13269(a)(4)(A)]
No annual fee required for any existing waivers in this region.

Waivers...

...may be terminated at any time.
[Water Code section 13269(a)(2)]

Dischargers no longer regulated by a waiver must file a RoWD for regulation by WDRs.

[Water Code section 13260(b)]

REMEMBER: All discharges of waste into waters of the state are privileges, not rights. [Water Code section 13263(g)]

Regulation by a waiver is also a privilege.

History of Waivers

- July 1983 Initial Waivers Adopted
- September 1994 Waivers into Basin Plan
- October 1999 Water Code Amended
- September 2002 Existing Waivers Adopted
- January 2003 Existing Waivers Effective
- December 2007 Existing Waivers Expire

- Types of discharge that do not pose a significant threat to water quality
- Must comply with the following general overall conditions:
 - Must not create a nuisance or pollution
 - Must not cause a violation of any applicable water quality standard
 - Must not contain any substance in concentrations toxic to animal or plant life

- A waiver for a specific type of discharge would not be against the public interest if:
 - Effectively regulated by another public agency
 - Does not adversely affect the quality and the beneficial uses of the waters of the state
 - Not readily amenable to regulation through adoption of WDRs but warrants oversight to ensure compliance with mandated conditions

- Discharge types are designated as either Category 1 or Category 2
 - Category 1 discharges
 - Potential threat
 - Direct or indirect enrollment
 - Category 2 discharges
 - "Low threat" discharges
 - No enrollment required

- Enrollment of Category 1 discharges fulfilled by one of the following:
 - Enrolled in program regulated by another public agency [Indirect]
 - Regulated under another program or method by the San Diego Water Board [Direct]
 - Enrolled directly by submitting applicable waiver enrollment form to San Diego Water Board [Direct]

Waivers Exist for 26 "Types" of Discharge

[Resolution No. R9-2002-186]

1. 8	eptic	Tank/D	Disposal	System ((Residential))
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- 2. Septic Tank/Disposal System (Commercial)
- 3. Alternative Individual Sewerage Systems
- 4. Septic Tanks/Disposal System (Campgrounds) 17. Stream Channel Alterations
- 5. Construction/Test Pumping Water Wells
- 6. Air Conditioner Condensate
- 7. Medium (300-999) Animal Feeding Operations
- 8. Small (<300) Animal Feeding Operations
- 9. Plant Crop Residues
- 10. Storm Water Runoff
- 11. Sand and Gravel Mining Operations
- 12. Intermittent Swimming Pool Discharges
- 13. Dredging Project Wastes

- 14. Short-term Construction Dewatering
- 15. Manure Composting/Soil Amendment Operations
- 16. Solid Waste Disposal Facility Only Inert Wastes
- - 18. Agricultural Irrigation Return Water
 - 19. Nursery Irrigation Return Water
 - 20. Short-term Use of Reclaimed Wastewater
 - 21. On-site Drilling Mud Discharge
- 22. Timber Harvesting
- 23. Temporary Discharge of Contaminated Soil
- 24. Green Waste Composting Facilities
- 25. Incidental Discharges During a Spill Response
- 26. Permanent Reclaimed Water Projects

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Waivers Exist for 26 "Types" of Discharge [Resolution No. R9-2002-186] Direct or Indirect Enrollment Required

1.	Septic Tank/Disposal System (Residential)	14. Short-term Construction Dewatering
<mark>2</mark> .	Septic Tank/Disposal System (Commercial)	15. Manure Composting/Soil Amendment Operations
3.	Alternative Individual Sewerage Systems	16. Solid Waste Disposal Facility - Only Inert Wastes
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5.	Construction/Test Pumping Water Wells	18. Agricultural Irrigation Return Water
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7.	Medium (300-999) Animal Feeding Operations	20. Short-term Use of Reclaimed Wastewater
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10.	Storm Water Runoff	23. Temporary Discharge of Contaminated Soil
11.	Sand and Gravel Mining Operations	24. Green Waste Composting Facilities
12.	Intermittent Swimming Pool Discharges	25. Incidental Discharges During a Spill Response
13.	Dredging Project Wastes	26. Permanent Reclaimed Water Projects

Project Update the Waivers in the Basin Plan

Requirements to Update Waivers

- Basin Plan Amendment
- California Environmental Quality Act
 - Certified Regulatory Program
 [California Code of Regulations Title 14 section 15251(g) and Title 23 section 3777]
 - Technical Report
 - Draft Basin Plan Amendment
 - CEQA Checklist
 - CEQA Scoping Meeting [Public Resources Code section 21083.9]
- Technical Report
 - CEQA analysis
 - Tentative Resolution and Basin Plan Amendment
 - Receive and respond to public comments
- Public Hearing
- Basin Plan Amendment Adoption/Approval

California Environmental Quality Act

Purpose of CEQA?

- Ensure public disclosure & participation
- Develop and maintain a high quality environment now and in the future
 - Identify project alternatives
 - Identify potential environmental impacts
 - Avoid or mitigate adverse impacts where possible

Project Alternatives

No Action

- All waivers expire December 2007
- All discharges must be regulated by WDRs
- All dischargers must file RoWDs
- Additional resources required by dischargers and San Diego Water Board
- Resources diverted from high priority discharges to low threat discharges
- Water quality would likely degrade

Project Alternatives

Renew Waivers "As Is"

- All existing waivers renewed with the same waiver conditions
- CEQA analysis already performed
- No new types of discharge could be waived
- Existing waiver conditions not "user friendly" for the public or San Diego Water Board
- Difficult to track potential pollutant sources
- Water quality would continue to degrade

Project Alternatives

Revise Waivers

- Renew or terminate existing waivers
- Revise and clarify waiver conditions for existing waivers to be renewed
- Add new types of discharge to be regulated by waivers and develop waiver conditions
- Efficient use of resources for San Diego Water Board and dischargers
- Compliance with revised waivers and waiver conditions could improve water quality

Recommended Alternative Revise Waivers

Potential Environmental Impacts Impact Categories

- Earth/Soil
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Plant Life
- Animal Life
- Noise
- Light and Glare
- Natural Resources
- Aesthetics
- Archeological

- Land Use
- Population
- Housing
- Transportation
- Public Services
- Energy
- Utilities and Services
- Human Health
- Recreation
- Cultural

Potential Environmental Impacts Short-Term Impacts

- Earth/Soil
- Air Quality
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Other Potential Impacts?

Impact Categories

- Earth/Soil
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Plant Life
- Animal Life
- Noise
- Light and Glare
- Natural Resources
- Aesthetics
- Archeological

- Land Use
- Population
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- Transportation
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Project Development Revise Waivers

Renew Existing Waivers

- Review Types of Discharge Regulated by Existing Waivers
 - Is issuing a waiver still appropriate for regulating this type of discharge?
 - Is a Category 2 type of discharge still considered a low threat discharge? If not, what type of enrollment should be required?

Renew Existing Waivers

- Review Existing Waiver Conditions
 - Do existing waiver conditions minimize or eliminate the discharge of pollutants to waters of the state?
 - Do existing waiver conditions adequately protect the quality and beneficial uses of waters of the state?
 - Do existing waiver conditions provide sufficient information to ensure the discharge is consistent with the Basin Plan?



- Renew or Allow Existing Waivers to Expire
 - Renew: Revise existing waiver conditions?
 - Expire: Should discharge type be regulated by General or Individual WDRs?

New Types of Discharge

- New Types of Discharge to be Considered for Regulation by Waivers
 - Must not be subject to NPDES regulations [Code of Federal Regulations Title 40 section 122.3]
 - Must not pose a significant threat to water quality
 - Must not create a nuisance or pollution
 - Must not cause a violation of any applicable water quality standard
 - Must not contain any substance in concentrations toxic to animal or plant life

New Types of Discharge

- Review New Types of Discharge Considered for Regulation by Waivers
 - Level of threat to water quality
 - low or potential
- Develop Waiver Conditions
 - Minimize or eliminate discharge of wastes
 - Protective of water quality and beneficial uses
 - Discharge limitations
 - Monitoring
 - Enrollment

New Types of Discharge

- New Types of Discharge Currently Being Considered for Regulation by Waivers*
 - 1. "Low Threat" Discharges to Land
 - 2. "Low Threat" Discharges to Surface Waters
 - 3. On-site Graywater Systems
 - 4. Discharges from Grazing Lands
 - **5. Stream Channel Maintenance Activities**
 - **6. Pesticide Dischargers**
 - 7. Concrete Grinding Residues
 - 8. Fireworks
 - 9. Unlined Decorative Ponds

- 10. Discharges from Marinas
- 11. Discharge/Reuse of Inert Soils and Materials
- 12. Discharge/Reuse of Soils Characterized as Inert or Non-hazardous from Contaminated Sites
- 13. Temporary Waste Piles and Surface Impoundments for Emergency-Related Wastes
- 14. Discharges from Private Storm Water Conveyance Systems
- 15. Fire Suppression and Fuels Management Activities

Proposed Waivers Update the Waivers in the Basin Plan

Existing Waivers for 26 "Types" of Discharge

- 1. Septic Tank/Disposal System (Residential)
- 2. Septic Tank/Disposal System (Commercial)
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- Many types of discharge proposed for regulation by waivers

 - Renew waivers for 26 types of discharge
 Issue new waivers for 15 or more new types of discharge
- Many similarities
 - Waiver conditions
 - Environmental settings
 - Discharge sources
- Group existing and new types of discharge and into "discharge classifications"
 - General conditions applicable to all types of discharge included in a "discharge classification"
 - Specific conditions, if necessary, applicable to a specific type of discharge within a "discharge classification"

- Proposed Waivers Based on Discharge Classifications*
 - 1. Discharges from On-site Disposal Systems
 - 2. "Low Threat" Discharges to Land
 - 3. "Low Threat" Discharges to Surface Waters
 - 4. Discharges from Animal Operations
 - 5. Agricultural and Nursery Discharges to Land and/or Surface Water
 - 6. Silvicultural Discharges to Land and/or Surface Water

- 7. Discharges of Fill Materials to Land and/or Surface Waters
- 8. Discharges of Recycled Water to Land
- 9. Discharges/Disposal/Reuse of Solid Wastes to Land
- 10. Discharges of Slurries to Land
- 11. Discharges of Emergency/Disaster-Related Wastes
- 12. Discharges of Aerially-Deposited Wastes to Land and/or Surface Water

- Proposed Waiver No. 1*
 Discharges from On-site Disposal Systems
 - Conventional septic tank/subsurface disposal systems for residential units [Existing Waiver No. 1]
 - Conventional septic tank/subsurface disposal systems for commercial/industrial establishments [Existing Waiver No. 2]
 - Alternative individual sewerage systems [Existing Waiver No. 3]
 - Conventional septic tank/subsurface disposal systems for campgrounds [Existing Waiver No. 4]
 - On-site graywater systems [NEW]

- Proposed Waiver No. 2* "Low Threat" Discharges to Land
 - Construction and test pumping of water wells [Existing Waiver No. 5]
 - Air conditioner condensate [Existing Waiver No. 6]
 - Intermittent swimming pool discharges [Existing Waiver No. 12]
 - Short-term construction dewatering operations [Existing Waiver No. 14]
 - Unlined decorative ponds storing municipal supply water or groundwater [NEW]
 - "Low threat" discharges to land and/or groundwater [NEW], including, but not limited to, the following:
 - **♦** Groundwater pumped from drinking water wells **♦** Groundwater pumped from foundation
 - **♦** Infiltration from residential/commercial/industrial lawn and landscape irrigation
 - **♦** Infiltration from structural infiltration-based BMPs
 - **♦** Discharges from washing vehicles, buildings, pavement, etc.

- Groundwater pumped from foundation drains, crawl space pumps, etc.
- **♦** Water line flushing
- **♦** Discharges of imported potable water
- ♦ Other discharges of water to land determined to be "low threat"

* Subject to change.

- Proposed Waiver No. 3* "Low Threat" Discharges to Surface Water
 - → Discharges from private stormwater conveyance systems [NEW]
 - Discharges from marinas [NEW]
 - "Low threat" discharges to surface water (not subject to NPDES regulations) [NEW], including, but not limited to, the following:
 - **△** Diverted stream flows
 - **♦** Rising ground waters
 - **♦** Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands
 - **♦** Flows from natural springs
 - **♦** Open space stormwater runoff
 - ♦ Non-emergency fire fighting flows
 - **♦** Intermittent swimming pool discharges
 - Incidental runoff from residential/ commercial/industrial/ recreational facility lawn and landscape irrigation

- **♦** Individual residential vehicle washing
- ◆ Uncontaminated pumped groundwater from wells, dewatering operations, foundation drains, footing drains, and crawl spaces not subject to general WDRs in San Diego Water Board Order Nos. 2000-90 and 2001-96
- ◆ Water line flushing and discharges from potable water sources, other than water line breaks, not subject to general WDRs in San Diego Water Board Order No. 2002-0020
- **♦** Other discharges of water to land determined to be "low threat"

* Subject to change.

- Proposed Waiver No. 4*
 Discharges from Animal Operations
 - → Medium (300-999) animal feeding operations [Existing Waiver No. 7]
 - → Small (<300) animal feeding operations [Existing Waiver No. 8]
 - Storm water runoff [Existing Waiver No. 10]
 - Manure composting [Existing Waiver No. 15]
 - Discharges from grazing lands [NEW]

- Proposed Waiver No. 5*
 Agricultural and Nursery Discharges to Land and/or Surface Water
 - → Plant crop residues [Existing Waiver No. 9]
 - Storm water runoff [Existing Waiver No. 10]
 - Soil amendment operations [Existing Waiver No. 15]
 - Agricultural irrigation return water [Existing Waiver No. 18]
 - Nursery irrigation return water [Existing Waiver No. 19]
 - Green waste composting facilities [Existing Waiver No. 24]
 - Pesticide dischargers [NEW]

- Proposed Waiver No. 6* Silvicultural Discharges to Land and/or Surface Water
 - → Storm water runoff [Existing Waiver No. 10]
 - Timber harvesting [Existing Waiver No. 22]
 - Green waste composting facilities [Existing Waiver No. 24]
 - Pesticide dischargers [NEW]
 - Fire suppression and fuels management [NEW]

- Proposed Waiver No. 7*
 Discharges of Fill Material to Land and/or Surface Water
 - > Sand and gravel mining operations [Existing Waiver No. 11]
 - Dredging project wastes [Existing Waiver No. 13]
 - Stream channel alterations [Existing Waiver No. 17]
 - Stream channel maintenance [NEW]

- Proposed Waiver No. 8*
 Discharges of Recycled Water to Land
 - → Short-term use of reclaimed wastewater [Existing Waiver No. 20]
 - Permanent reclaimed water projects [Existing Waiver No. 26]
 - Unlined decorative ponds storing recycled water [NEW]

- Proposed Waiver No. 9*
 Discharges/Disposal of Solid Wastes to Land
 - → Manure composting/soil amendment operations [Existing Waiver No. 15]
 - Solid waste disposal facilities only accepting inert wastes [Existing Waiver No. 16]
 - Temporary discharge of specified contaminated soils [Existing Waiver No. 23]
 - Green waste composting facilities [Existing Waiver No. 24]
 - Discharge/disposal/reuse of inert soils and materials to land [NEW]
 - Discharge/disposal/reuse of soils characterized as inert or nonhazardous from contaminated sites to land [NEW]

- Proposed Waiver No. 10* Discharges/Disposal of Slurries to Land
 - → On-site drilling mud discharges [Existing Waiver No. 21]
 - → Concrete grinding residues [NEW]

- Proposed Waiver No. 11*
 Discharges of Emergency/Disaster-Related
 Wastes
 - → Incidental discharges within a response area during a spill response [Existing Waiver No. 25]
 - Temporary waste piles and surface impoundments for disasterrelated wastes [NEW]
 - Temporary waste piles and emergency landfills for mass mortality wastes [NEW]

- Proposed Waiver No. 12* Discharges of Aerially-Deposited Wastes to Land and/or Surface Water
 - → Pesticide dischargers [NEW]
 - → Fireworks [NEW]

Schedule to Adopt Waivers

- Public Review of Proposed Waivers
 - Apr 2007: CEQA Scoping Meeting
 - Jun/Jul 2007: Release Draft Proposed Waivers for Public Review and Comment
 - Jul/Aug 2007: Receive Public Comments
- Adopt Proposed Waivers
 - Aug/Sep 2007: Public Hearing/Adoption
 - Dec 2007: State Water Board and OAL
- Adopted Waivers Effective
 - January 1, 2008

Other Project Alternatives? Other Potential Impacts?

Update the Waivers in the Basin Plan





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